

## REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge allowability of claims 9-17 and 26 if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Claim 9 has been rewritten as an independent claim incorporating the limitations of base claim 7. Claims 10-16 remain dependent directly or indirectly relative to claim 9.

Accordingly, claims 9-16 are now formally allowable.

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Claim 26 has been rewritten to include the limitations of base claim 19 and intervening claims 22 and 25.

Accordingly, claim 26 is now formally allowable.

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Claims 1-6, 19, 21-25, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as allegedly obvious in light of IBM Technical disclosure Bulletin Vol. 26, Issue 7A, December 1, 1983, pages 3529-3531.

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The cited IBM reference is a document binding system wherein sheet media receive adhesive material along a surface portion, e.g., an edge or corner. Upon stacking a collection of such sheets and applying pressure thereto, a bound document results. Thus, device shown in the IBM reference produces each sheet with exposed adhesive to facility subsequent contact with an adjacent sheet in the final bound document.

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Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to include a backing sheet. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to conform to the amendment to claim 1. Claims 23 and 25 have been amended to conform to the amendment to claim 19.

The document binding device shown in the IBM reference cannot be modified under 35 USC Section 103 to include a backing sheet because a backing sheet would prevent binding of sheets into a bound document.

5           Accordingly the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6 and the rejection of claim 19 and its dependent claims 21-25 and 27-30 as obvious in light of the IBM reference must be withdrawn.

10           Claims 1-4, 19, 21, 22, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as allegedly obvious in light of Mosher US Patent No. 5,609,716.

15           Moser shows a device producing identification bracelets including exposed adhesive as a fastening mechanism. In other words, Mosher has as a specific objective a strip including at one end an exposed adhesive. The stated purpose is to avoid debris, e.g., a backing sheet, associated with large-scale production and distribution to individuals such as at a concert, ski resort, amusement park or other event requiring individual access or use control.

20           The device shown in the Mosher reference cannot be modified under 35 USC Section 103 to include a backing sheet because a backing sheet would prevent the stated objective of producing an identification tag ready for application and including an exposed adhesive fastening device.

As noted above, claims 1 and 19 have been amended to include a backing sheet.

25           Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-4 and the rejection of claim 19 and its dependent claims 21, 22, 27 and 28 as obvious in light of the Mosher reference must be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 19-21 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as allegedly obvious in light of Silverbrook US 2002/0162502.

As with the IBM reference, the Silverbrook device supports a binding operation frustrated entirely by placement of a backing sheet as claimed herein.

5 As noted above, claims 1 and 19 have been amended to include a backing sheet.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claim 2 and the rejection of claim 19 and its dependent claims 20-21 and 28-30 as obvious in light of the Silverbrook reference must be withdrawn.

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Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 18, 19, 21, and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as allegedly obvious in light of Luxeder US Patent No. 4,501,772.

15 Luxeder shows application of an adhesive to one side of a sheet and printing on the other side. A varnish is applied to the printed side. As stated by Luxeder at col. 3, Lines 32-35: "The object here is to protect the printed side when the adhesive side of the next adjacent label is placed against it..." Further, Luxeder has as its objective the advantage of the use of conventional printing apparatus. Applicants respectfully submit that such apparatus does not include means for applying a backing sheet.

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Clearly, Luxeder does not contemplate nor have any need for a backing sheet. A backing sheet would be redundant and interfere with the intended use of the resulting product.

Thus, Luxeder cannot be modified under 35 USC Section 103 to include a backing sheet.

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As noted above, claims 1 and 19 have been amended to include a backing sheet. Claim 7 also has been amended to include a backing sheet. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to conform to the amendment to base claim 7.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claim 2, the rejection of claim 7 and its dependent claims 8 and 18, and the rejection of claim 19 and its dependent claim 21 and 28-30 must be withdrawn.

5 In light of the above amendment and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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15 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the US Postal Service as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

20 Date 5-5-03

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